

Attorney's Docket: 1999DE121
Serial No.: 09/578,420
Group: 1714

8. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature during the reaction is from -20 to +60°C.
9. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature is from 0 to 30°C.
10. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out at a pressure of from 0 to 10 bar.
11. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the yellow phosphorus is suspended or dissolved in a solvent or solvent mixture and then reacted with an alkyl halide and the at least one base.
12. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the yellow phosphorus and the alkyl halide are reacted in a molar ratio of from 1:1 to 1:3, where the molar ratio of yellow phosphorus to the at least one base is from 1:1 to 1:5.
13. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the two-phase system obtained after the reaction is separated and further processed.
14. (Withdrawn) The use of a (metal) salt of an alkylphosphonous acid prepared by a process as claimed in claim 1 as a precursor for chemical syntheses.
15. (Withdrawn) The use of a (metal) salt of an alkylphosphonous acid prepared by a process as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of organophosphorus compounds.

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16. (Withdrawn) The use of a (metal) salt of an alkylphosphonous acid prepared by a process as claimed in claim 1 as a flame retardant or for the preparation of flame retardants.

17. (Withdrawn) The use of a (metal) salt of an alkylphosphonous acid prepared by a process as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of flame retardants for thermoplastic polymers, such as polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate or polyamide.

18. (Withdrawn) The use of a (metal) salt of an alkylphosphonous acid prepared by a process as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of flame retardants for thermosetting resins, such as unsaturated polyester resins, epoxy resins, polyurethanes or acrylates.